

# A ROUNDABOUT TURN

BY ROBERT H. CHARLES



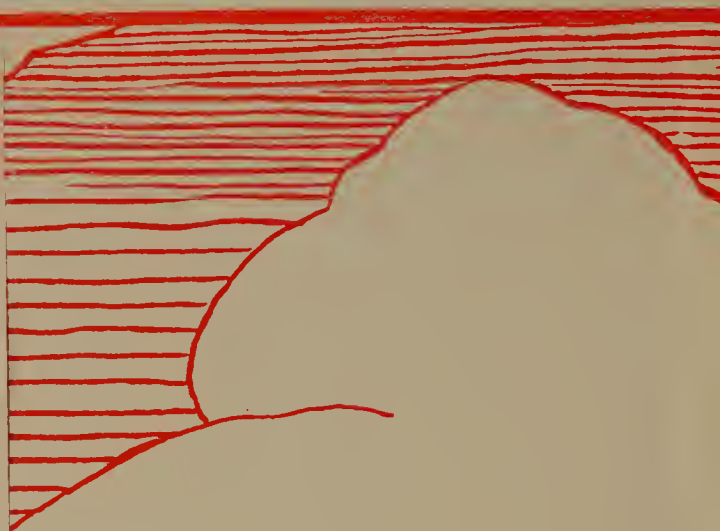
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L. LESLIE BROOKE

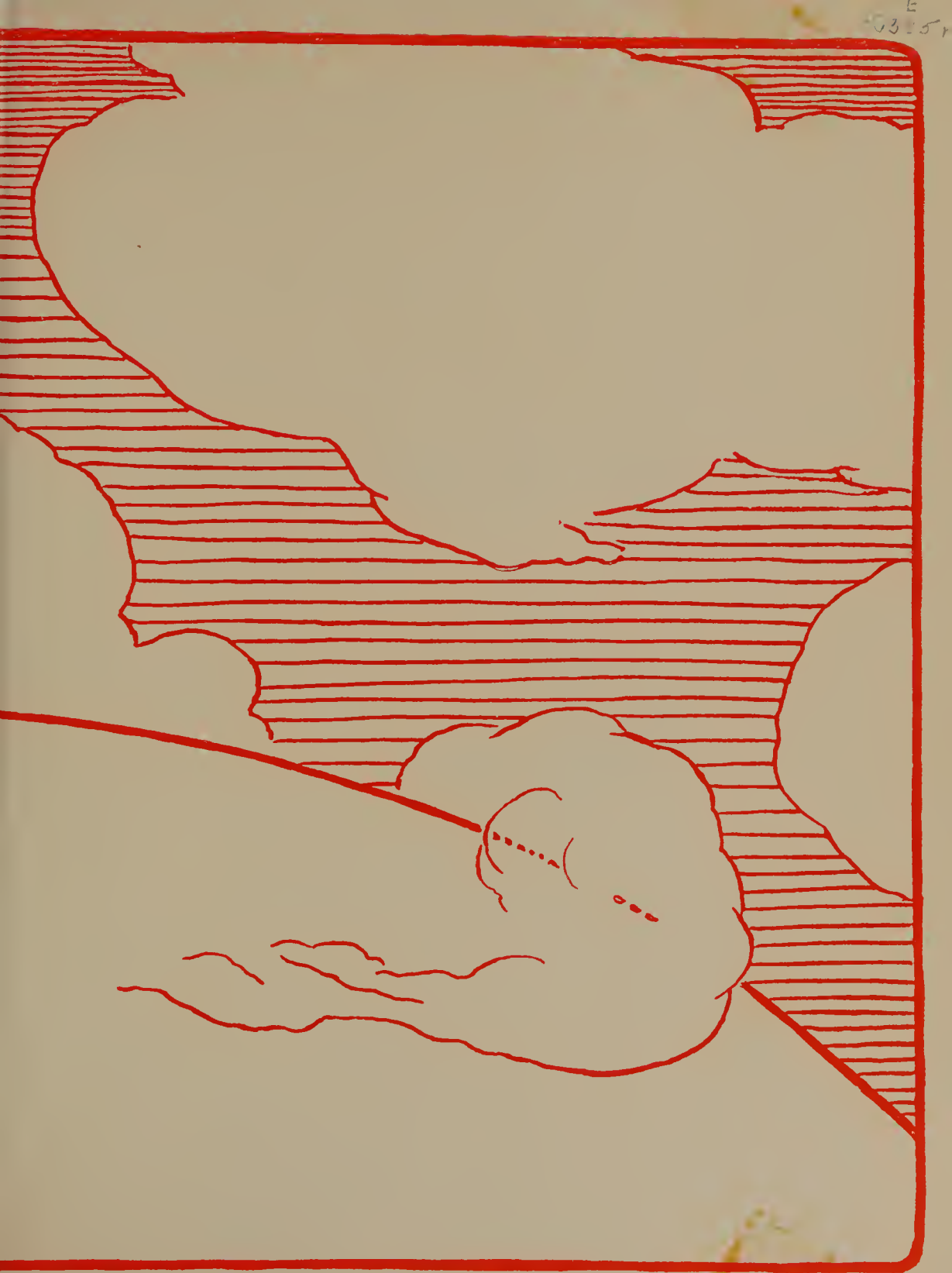
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## A ROUNDABOUT TURN

An amusing tale which originally appeared in *Punch*. It tells, in verse, of an adventurous toad who wished to see if the world were really round, and found that it was the "Roundest place I ever was in". But in the end he decided that he preferred his nice flat heath as the world was "rather a *giddy* place".

Children appreciate the humour of Leslie Brooke's illustrations, in line and colour, which help to make the whole book a delightful frolic.







# A ROUNDABOUT TURN



L.L.B.

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BY

ROBERT H. CHARLES

WITH DRAWINGS BY

L. LESLIE BROOKE



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## A ROUNDABOUT TURN.

A TOAD that lived on Albury Heath  
Wanted to see the World.

“It isn’t that I dislike the Heath,

“It’s a perfectly charming Heath, of course—



“ All this heather, and all this gorse,  
“ All this bracken to walk beneath,  
“ With its feathery fronds to the sky uncurled—  
“ It’s as jolly a Heath as ever was found,





“ But it’s flat, and the World, they say, is round.

“ Yes, fancy,” he said, “ it’s round, they tell me.

“ And wouldn’t I like to go and see !



L. B.

“ But there—it’s a long way down the road  
“ For a fellow that walks as slow as a Toad.



“ If I had a horse, I’d go,” said he,

“ If only I had a horse !

“ Who’s got a horse,” he cried, “ to sell me ? ”









L.L.B.

Well, nobody had, you see.

BUT horses came to the Heath one day,  
Mettlesome steeds in brave array,  
With prancing legs and staring eyes,  
And crimson saddles that fall and rise  
As round the galloping squadron flies,  
And tents, and swings, and cokernut shies,  
And a hoop-la stall with many a prize,  
And races, and a band, and cheering.



“ Hark ! ” said the Toad, “ what’s this I’m hearing ?  
“ It must be the World arrived, by the sound ;  
“ *Now* I’ll see if it’s really round ! ”



OFF he crawled to the thick of things,  
And the crowds made crawling rather tiring.  
“Dear me,” he said, “I wish I’d wings !  
“If this is the World,” said he, perspiring,



“It’s inconveniently full of Feet.”



When a sudden voice said, "Look—how sweet !  
" Mummy, a toad ! Let's give him a treat.



“It’s not very safe for him on the ground,  
“So I’ll put him up—



L. L. B.

—on the merry-go-round.”



G.B.

AND before the Toad could answer the floor began to  
slide,

The horses started prancing, and the riders settled to ride,  
And they all moved faster, and the band began to play,  
And away round he went with them, away and away and  
away.

Hooray ! . . . .









SO the Toad rode the Roundabout  
Round and round and round ;  
No one minded him, he sat without a sound :  
He rather liked the movement, he rather liked the tune,  
He just rode the Roundabout  
All the afternoon.



L.L.B.

WHEN the time to pay came  
What did he do ?

“ Tuppence a ride ! Tuppence a ride ! How much for  
you ? ”

Some had ridden for one ride, some had ridden for two—

“ *Seventy-nine,*” the Toad cried ;

The Boy said, “ Coo ! ”



“ But never you mind,” the Toad replied  
“ Here’s an I.O.U.”

“ AND now,” he said, “ I’ll go, thanks,  
“ I want to get home to tea.





I.O.U. for 79 RIED  
(Singed) 13<sup>th</sup> and 20 2  
jacob Lard

A.L.B.



“ Another for nothing ? No, thanks,  
“ *Not* any more for me.”





HOME, holding the grasses,  
Crawling a crooked road,

Slowly there passes





A very unsteady





Toad.

“WELL, and what have you found, dear?  
“And what have you seen and heard?



“ Is the World really round, dear ? ”

“ *Round ?* ” he said. “ My word !

“ *Round ?* ” said he ; “ you should feel it spin !

“ Roundest place I ever was in !—

“ Round ! ” he chuckled ; “ it’s that !

“ But it’s rather,” he said with a knowing wink—

“ It’s rather a *giddy* place, I think.



“ Give me a drop of the dew to drink,  
“ And give me the Heath ;  
it's flat ! ”



W.L.B.



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